

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 04118 122109Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 SAM-01 EA-07 ACDA-05 IO-11 /095 W

----- 116905

R 121705Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6334

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 4118

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT TO ROME 27 FEB AND IS REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TURIN 0001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE, CONVERSATION WITH ON.

GIAN ALDO ARNAUD

SUMMARY. CONSUL WILLIAM H. SKOK AND PAR ROMOLO LANNA VISTED
ON. GIAN ALDO ARNAUD ON FEBRUARY 23 TO SOUND OUT HIS OPINIONS
ON THE UPCOMING DC CONGRESS AND HIS VIEWS ON THE FUTURE ORIEN-
TATION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. DURING THE COURSE OF THE
HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW ARNAUD FORESAW A DARK POLITICAL AND ECO-
NOMIC FUTURE FOR ITALY AND THE DC AND PARTICULARLY BLAMED THE
PROBLEM ON A NEGATIVE SERIES OF COINCIDENCES INCLUDING THE
ECONOMIC CRISIS, INCREASED CRIME, LEFTIST-ORIENTED PRESS,
RECENT HIGH-LEVEL SCANDALS, AND THE DECLINE OF U.S. INFLUENCE
WORLDWIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL. CONSUL WILLIAM H. SKOK AND PAR ROMOLO LANNA VIS-
ITED ON. GIAN ALDO RENAUD, THE 47-YEAR OLD DC DEPUTY, MEMBER
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 04118 122109Z

OF THE FORLANIANA CURRENT, AND MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMISSION TO SOUND OUT HIS VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING DC CONGRESS AND HIS VIEWS OF ITALY'S POLITICAL FUTURE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION, ARNAUD WAS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC REGARDING BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE OF ITALY. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE HIS VIEWS.

2. DC CONGRESS. FORLANI, ACCORDING TO ARNAUD, HAS A SLIGHT MAJORITY OVER THE ZACCAGNINI FORCES AT THIS TIME. ARNAUD DESCRIBED ZACCAGNINI AS, "...AN HONEST MAN WITH NO GENUINE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES. MORO MAY EMERGE AS THE MODERATING FORCE, ALTHOUGH THE ENTIRE DC RULING CLASS IS TOO OLD. FAMILIAR, AND LACKS ANY REAL CREDIBILITY."

3. POLITICAL FUTURE OF ITALY. ACCORDING TO ARNAUD, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE MAJORITY OF ITALIAN CITIZENS DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IN A COMMUNIST SOCIETY. HOWEVER, THERE IS A REAL RISK THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN BECAUSE OF A SERIES OF NEGATIVE COINCIDENCES. ARNAUD THEN CITED THE ITALIAN AND WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE CRIME WAVE, THE LEFTIST-ORIENTED MASS MEDIA, VARIOUS SCANDALS, AND THE WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN IN ITALY REGARDING AMERICA'S RELIABILITY AND DECLINING INFLUENCE AS BEING THE PRIMARY NEGATIVE FACTORS FOR THE DC INFLUENCING THE NEXT ELECTION. HE EXPANDED ON THESE POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE DC DESPERATELY NEEDS TO HAVE AN UPTURN IN THE ECONOMY TO HAVE ANY HOPE AT ALL OF WINNING AN UPCOMING ELECTION. ACCORDING TO ARNAUD, IMPROVEMENT OF THE ECONOMY IS SOMETHING FALLING FAR SHORT OF A CERTAINTY. HE WAS GREATLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW AND HEAVY INFLATIONARY PRESSURES WHEN ITALY IS FORCED TO BUY RAW MATERIALS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE DEFLATED LIRA.

B. CRIME. ARNAUD CITED CURRENT CRIME AS PARTICULARLY AFFECTING THE PRESTIGE OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES WHOSE MORALE IS ALREADY AT A LOW POINT BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT SALARIES, UNPLEASANT JOBS, AND CAMPAIGNS WHICH HAVE DISCREDITED THEIR STANDING.

C. MASS MEDIA. ARNAUD SAID THAT THE DC HAS LOST THE BATTLE TO CONTROL THE MASS MEDIA -- PARTICULARLY IN THE NEWSPAPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 04118 122109Z

FIELD. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS, "...HARVESTING THE CROPS OF JOURNALISTS THAT THEY HAD SOWN AS EARLY AS SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO WHEN THEY BEGAN CULTIVATING NEW AND PROMISING LEFTIST WRITERS AND PLACING THEM IN THE MAJOR DAILIES. THE DC SPENT ITS EFFORTS AT THAT TIME TRYING TO GET ITS FRIENDS INTO RAI-TV." ARNAUD NOTED THAT THE DC'S RECENT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE (SUCH AS THE ONE WITH IL MESSAGGERO WHERE, "...FANFANI'S BRIGHT IDEA AND INTERVENTION, COUPLED WITH MONTEDI-

SON'S GENEROSITY, DID NOT SAVE THE NEWSPAPER FROM BECOMING THE KIND OF PAPER IT IS NOW.") INDICATED TO HIM THAT THE PARTY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEWSPAPERS AT ALL. HE AGREED WITH THE POINT THAT ONLY A LONG-RANGE DC PLAN ACCOMPANIED BY STRONG ACTION REGARDING FINANCING AND ORGANIZATION OF THE NEWSPAPERS WOULD BE ABLE TO REVERSE THE CURRENT TREND OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA IN ITALY.

REFERRING TO THE TWO TURIN DAILIES, ARNAUD INDICATED THAT, "...A PROCESS OF SOVIETIZATION IS NOW IN ACTION. IF (DR. ARRIGO) LEVI (EDITOR OF LA STAMPA) IS GOING TO BE SUBSTITUTED BY ENZO BIAGI THINGS WILL ACTUALLY REMAIN AS THEY ARE. THEY'RE THE SAME ZOO." HE ADDED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING SOME OF ITS TOP REPRESENTATIVES SUCH AS THE AGNELLI BROTHERS, ARE SHOWING LITTLE INTEREST IN CONTROLLING THE MAIN INFORMATION MEDIA, "...ADDING MORE DIS-ORIENTATION TO THE ALREADY CHAOTIC SCENE."

D. SCANDALS. ARNAUD REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF RECENT SCANDALS HEAVILY REPORTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, REGARDING CIA AND LOCKHEED. HE THOUGHT THAT HAD ELECTIONS BEEN HELD TWO MONTHS AGO THE DC WOULD HAVE GAINED SOME VOTES LOST BY THE PSI BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS. HOWEVER, AS OF TODAY, THE DC WOULD LOSE VOTES, ACCORDING TO ARNAUD.

E. U.S. CREDIBILITY. ARNAUD MENTIONED VIETNAM, WATERGATE, ANGOLA AND PORTUGAL AS RECENT EVENTS WHICH HAVE JEOPARDIZED THE CREDIBILITY AND WORLD PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED STATES. HE ADDED, "NOTHING WOULD BE MORE DELTERIOUS TO US (THE DC) THAN LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT AMERICA NO LONGER CARES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ITALY. THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF VOTERS THAT ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO JUMP TO THE WINNING SIDE. THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ROME 04118 122109Z

COULD BE THE DETERMINING SIGNAL FOR THEM TO ABANDON THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES DEFINITELY". ARNAUD ADDED THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND GERMANY, EVEN WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITALY'S POLITICAL DESTINY.

4. ELECTIONS. ARNAUD VIEWS THE CURRENT MONO-COLORE GOVERNMENT AS EXTREMELY FRAGILE AND DESTINED FOR A SHORT LIFE. TO HIM, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL OF 1976 OR IN THE SPRING OF 1977 BECAUSE IN FACT, "...THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS ALREADY UNDERWAY." THE DC SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD ITS OWN, "...IF THE ECONOMY IMPROVES, NO MORE SCANDALS ARE ENCOUNTERED, AND THE OLD ONES FADE AWAY IN THE PRESS AND IN THE MEMORY."

COMMENT: ARNAUD IS NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE DC'S CHANCES
AT A MAJOR COMEBACK. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO COMPLETELY
GIVE UP THE GHOST AND WITH A FEW IFS, I.E., IF THE ECONOMY
IMPROVES..., IF THE U.S. HAS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS...,
ETC., THE DC STILL MIGHT FIND THE RABBIT IN ITS TOPS HAT.
LANIUS UNQUOTE VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME04118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0657
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760366/aaaacgdm.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE, CONVERSATION WITH ON. GIAN ALDO ARNAUD
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT, (ARNAUD, GIAN ALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006